

# **A PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE FRENCH MINOR SUBDIVISION PROJECT**

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY  
APN 495-401-07; TPM 21013**

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## National Archaeological Data Base Information

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*Report Title:* Phase I Archaeological Assessment of the French Minor  
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*USGS Quadrangle:* El Cajon California (7.5 minute)

*Study Area:* 2.09 acres

*Key Words:* USGS El Cajon quadrangle (7.5 minute); CEQA; San Diego  
County RPO; Phase 1 survey; negative; historic structure; not  
significant.

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## **List of Abbreviations**

AMSL	above mean sea level
BFSA	Brian F. Smith and Associates
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
RPO	Resource Protection Ordinance
SCIC	South Coastal Information Center
SDSU	San Diego State University
USGS	United States Geological Survey
YBP	years before present

## **1.0 MANAGEMENT SUMMARY/ABSTRACT**

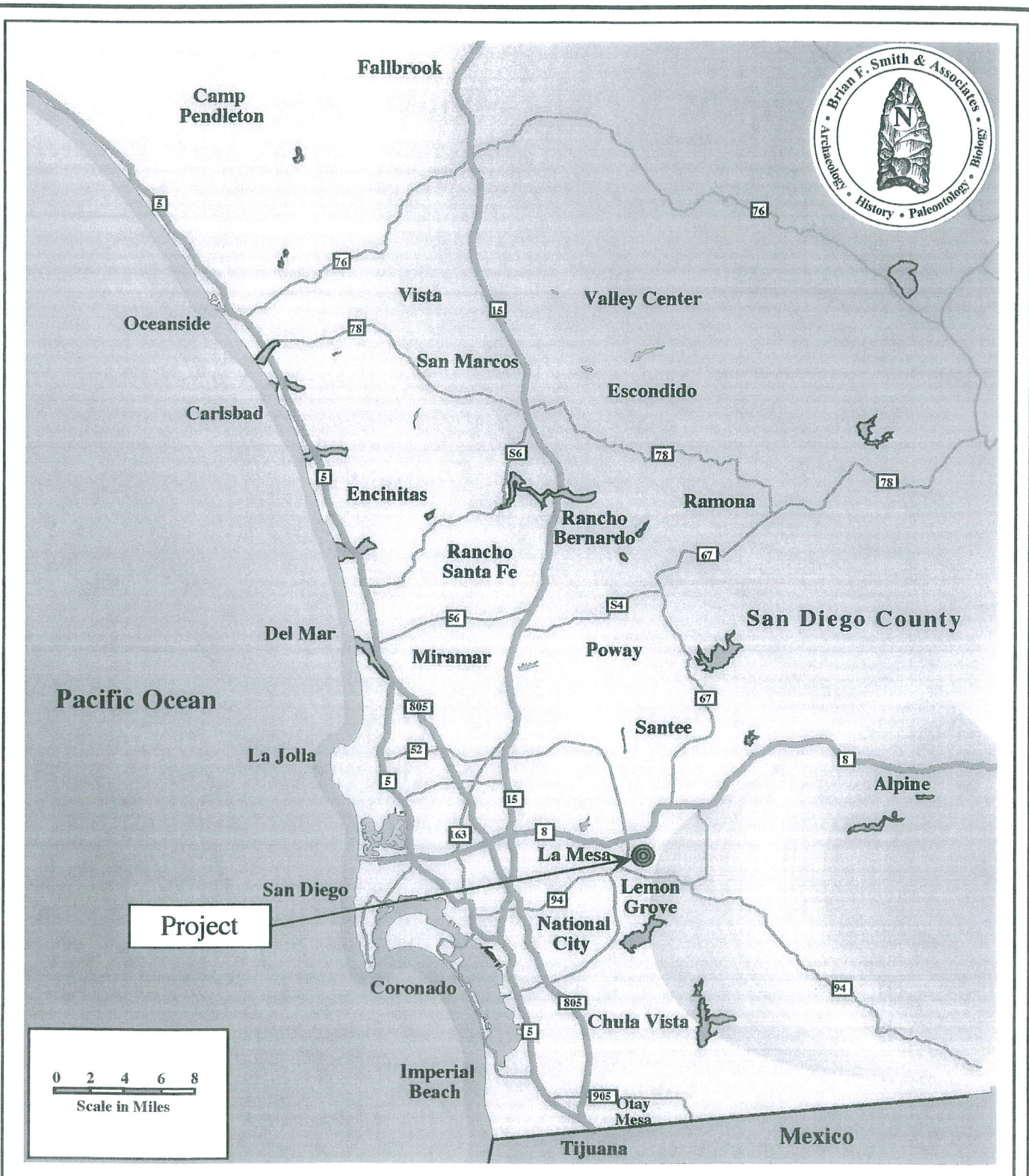
In response to a request from Mr. Mike Brownson of Alta Consultants, an archaeological records search review and survey was conducted by Brian F. Smith and Associates (BFSA) during the week of June 19, 2006 for a 2.09-acre parcel located at 9420 Lavell Street in San Diego, San Diego County, California (APN 495-401-07). Specifically, the current project area is located on the USGS El Cajon 7.5-minute California topographic quadrangle map, within the north 1/2 of the northeast 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of Section 21, Township 16 South, Range 1 West, of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian. The cultural resources investigation of the property was conducted in accordance with the CEQA and San Diego County Resource Protection Ordinance (RPO) requirements. The evaluation process was conducted to determine whether any archaeological or historical cultural resources are present within the project area, and whether these resources are significant according to state and/or county criteria.

The archaeological reconnaissance survey was conducted on August 30, 2006, by Richard Greene, M.A., project archaeologist under the direction of Brian F. Smith. The records searches for recorded cultural resources were performed by the South Coastal Information Center (SCIC) at San Diego State University (SDSU) and the San Diego Museum of Man. No cultural resources were identified within the current project area as a result of the field reconnaissance, and the records searches showed that no previously recorded sites exist within the current project area. In addition, the existing structure on the property, although over 50 years of age, was determined to be not significant. Therefore, no further archaeological studies are required for this project.

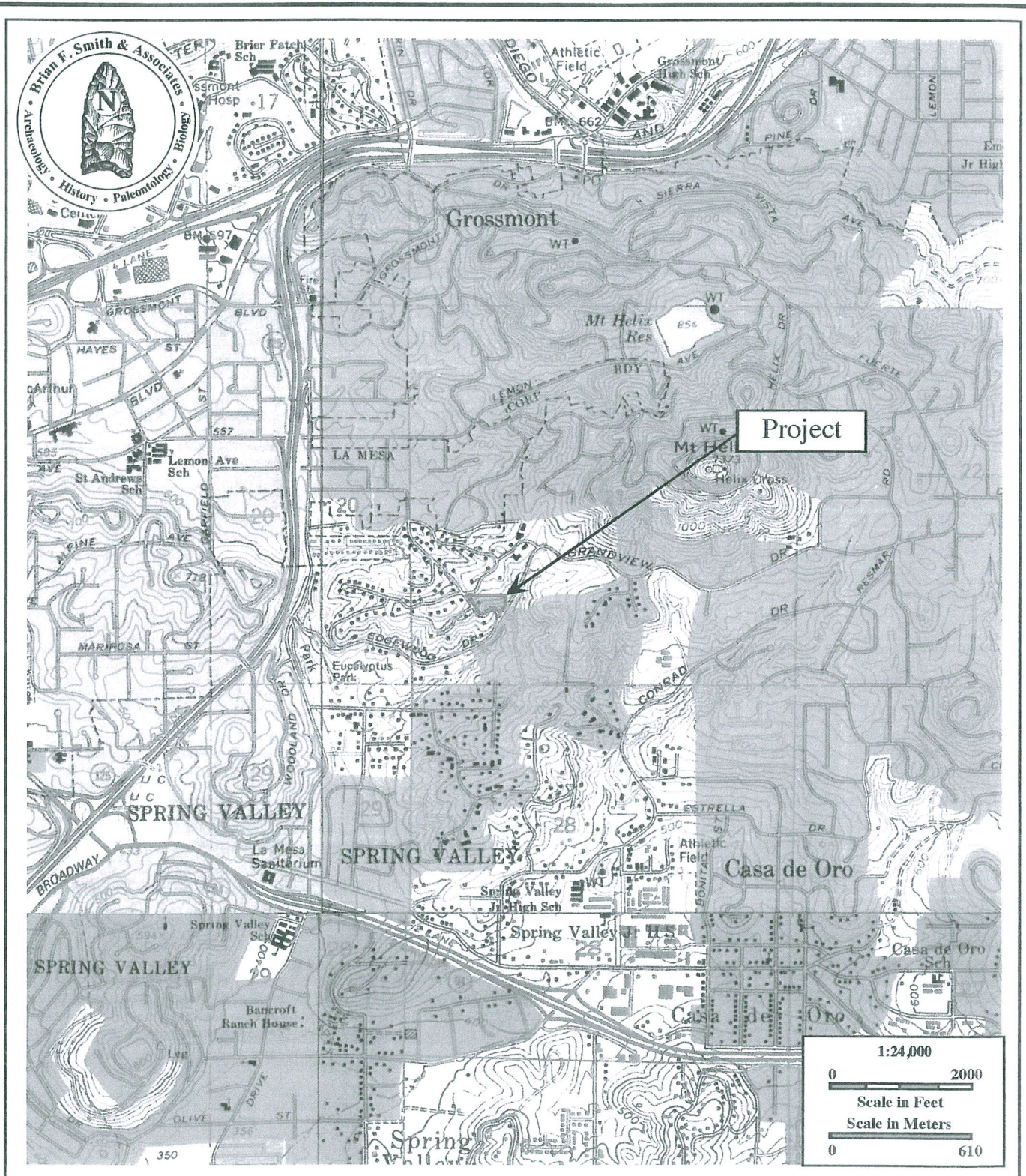
## **2.0 INTRODUCTION**

The current project area is an approximately 2.09-acre parcel located at 9420 Lavell Street, San Diego, San Diego County, California (APN 495-401-07). The property is within a generally developed area of San Diego situated at the northeast corner of San Pasqual Valley Road and Bear Valley Road, both east of Escondido. Specifically, the current project area is located on the USGS 7.5-minute El Cajon California topographic map, within the north 1/2 of the northeast 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of Section 21, Township 16 South, Range 1 West, of the San Bernardino Base and Meridian (Figures 1 and 2). The applicant for the project proposes to subdivide the property into three lots for residential development. As part of the environmental review for the project, the County has included a cultural resources study. The entire 2.09-acre project was included in the archaeological survey.

A copy of this report will be permanently filed with SCIC at SDSU. All notes and other materials related to this project will be curated at the archaeological laboratory of BFSA in Poway, California.

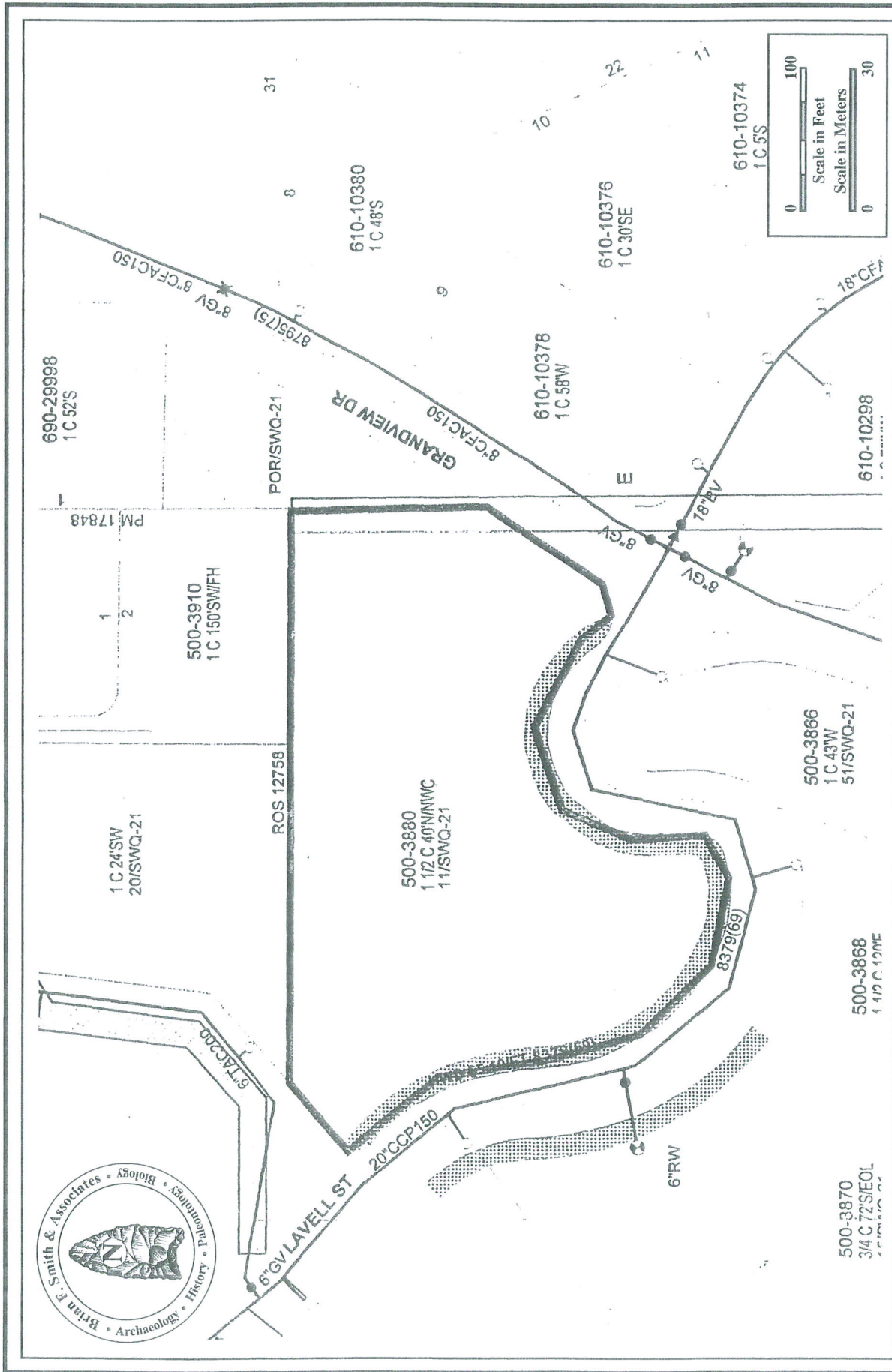


**Figure 1**  
**General Location Map**  
The French Minor Subdivision Project  
County of San Diego



**Figure 2**  
**Project Location Map**  
 The French Minor Subdivision Project

USGS El Cajon, La Mesa, Jamul Mountains and National City Quadrangles (7.5 minute series)



**Figure 3**  
**Project Development Map**  
 The French Minor Subdivision Project

### **3.0 SETTING**

The project area lies in the inland foothill region located in the Peninsular Range Geomorphic Province of southern California. The natural environment in prehistoric times likely included inland desert sage/scrub species with a variety of cacti and native trees along the drainage (Beauchamp 1986). The present environment and landscape can be described as typical residential landscaping on a fairly steep hillside. The present vegetative community consists of mixed native and non-native grasses, as well as a variety of landscaping and orchard trees, bushes, and weeds, located mostly near the residence and along the fence-line.

The elevation of the property ranges from approximately 640 feet to 720 feet above mean sea level (AMSL). The entire project area is characterized by moderate to steeply sloping terrain, with a dry drainage bisecting the property in a northwest to southeast orientation. No bedrock outcrops were observed within the parcel. The soil appeared to be medium reddish-brown silty clay that may have been cultivated for orchards or used for grazing in the past. One residential structure was located at the northeast end of the parcel. Photographs were taken to document project conditions at the time of the current study (see Plates 1 through 3).

The ethnography of the area consists primarily of occupation by the archaic La Jolla cultural horizon with some late prehistoric Kumeyaay temporary camps overlying the older cultural strata. Historic settlement began late in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the area was initially used as grazing and farmland. Today, the general vicinity of the project area is becoming popular for residential development.

### **4.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Field Methodology**

The research methodology employed during the investigation by BFSa was sufficient to conduct an intensive evaluation of the project area. The archaeological field survey took place on August 30, 2006, and was conducted by project archaeologist Richard Greene. The surface examination was conducted by walking transects spaced approximately five to ten meters apart across all accessible areas of the property in a east to west orientation. Any areas where cultural materials may have been located were closely inspected. Rodent burrows and rodent tailings were also inspected closely for evidence of cultural materials or modified soil. The banks of the drainage were also inspected. The ground visibility was poor due to the dense grasses, but a trowel was used at regular intervals along transects to remove the ground cover and expose the surface of the soil. The existing structure on the property was evaluated for historical or architectural significance.

#### **4.2 Archaeological Records Searches**

Archaeological records searches for this project were conducted by SCIC at SDSU and the San Diego Museum of Man, the results of which were reviewed by BFSA (Appendix I). Previous archaeological investigations were reviewed to determine if any known archaeological sites, historic structure locations, or other cultural resources are present in or adjacent to the current project area. The results of the records searches are discussed later in this document.

#### **4.3 Native American Consultation**

The records search reviews, as well as the results of the current survey, revealed no indication of Native American religious, ritual, or other special activities within the project area. The project area is not located on Native American reservation land. However, the Sacred Lands Files search by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) did indicate that cultural resources were recorded in the project area. The NAHC recommended that Native American representatives be contacted.

### **5.0 REPORT OF FINDINGS**

#### **5.1 Field Survey Results**

The survey area consisted of approximately 2.09 acres across moderate to steeply sloping terrain. Ground visibility was poor due to the ground cover density, and overgrown landscaping around the residence (Plates 1 and 2). No evidence of prehistoric or historic cultural resources, artifacts, bedrock outcrops, features, or darkened soils was observed within the current project area. The single existing structure on the property is a residence that appeared to be a concrete split level from datum with a hipped roof, built sometime during the 1950s or 60s (Plate 3). Mr. Larry Pierson of BFSA reviewed the structure for historical/architectural importance as defined by the County Guidelines, and concluded the structure was not historically relevant, nor was the architecture of significance. The structure is not historically or architecturally significant according to CEQA Section 15064.5 and County of San Diego RPO Section 21083.2 guidelines.

#### **5.2 Results of the Archaeological Records Searches**

Archaeological records searches were conducted by SCIC at SDSU and the San Diego Museum of Man, the results of which were reviewed as part of this study. The records searches showed that no previously identified cultural resources have been recorded within the project boundaries. The SCIC records search showed no evidence of previously recorded cultural resources within one mile of the project area; however, the Museum of Man records showed the presence of a single prehistoric bedrock milling site (W-2868) recorded to the west of the project site, along the southeast side of Highway 67. The site was recorded in 1974 and was noted as

being impacted by the construction of the highway. The results of the records searches are provided in their entirety in the Confidential Appendix (Appendix I).



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**Plate 1. View of the project area looking northeast toward the drainage.**

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**Plate 2. View of the project area looking north toward the residence.**

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**Plate 3. View of existing structure at 9420 Lavell Street.**

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## **6.0 DISCUSSION/INTERPRETATION**

The project plan for the 2.09-acre parcel located on the northeast corner of San Pasqual Valley Road and Bear Valley Road, Escondido, San Diego County is to subdivide the current parcel into three separate lots. Given that no cultural resources were located during the current survey of the project area and no resources were identified within property boundaries as a result of the records search, it is unlikely that cultural resources will be impacted by any proposed development or construction. Furthermore, it is unlikely that intact archaeological deposits exist within the project area. In addition, the existing structure on the property was determined to be not significant according to CEQA and County of San Diego RPO guidelines. Therefore, no additional archaeological studies or mitigation is recommended for this project.

## **7.0 MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

Given that no cultural resources were located during the current survey of the project area and no resources were identified within property boundaries as a result of the records search, it is unlikely that intact archaeological deposits exist within the project area. In addition, the existing structure on the property was determined to be not significant according to CEQA and County of San Diego RPO guidelines. No additional archaeological mitigation is necessary for the project to proceed.

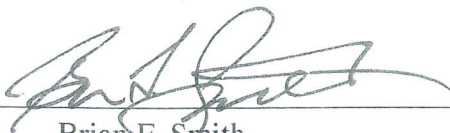
In the event that a cultural feature, concentration of artifacts, or culturally modified soil deposits including trash pits older than 45 years of age are discovered at any time during clearing, grading, scraping, or excavation within the project area, all work should be halted in the vicinity of the find and a qualified archaeologist should be contacted immediately to evaluate the discovery.

## **8.0 PERSONNEL**

The archaeological survey for the current project was conducted by Richard Greene, under the direction of Brian F. Smith, Principal Investigator. The archaeological records search review and drafting of the report was conducted by project archaeologist Richard Greene. Dylan Amerine and Brian Smith edited the report. Damien Tietjen produced the graphics and Amanda Erb produced the report.

## **9.0 CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached exhibits present the data and information required for this archaeological report, and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, and have been compiled in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) criteria as defined in Section 15064.5 and County of San Diego cultural resource criteria.



Brian F. Smith  
Principal Investigator

September 7, 2006  
Date

## 10.0 REFERENCES CITED

Beauchamp, R. Mitchell

1986     *A Flora of San Diego County, California.* Sweetwater River Press, National City, California.

**APPENDIX I**

**Archaeological Records Search Results  
(SCIC, SD Museum of Man, NAHC)**

*(deleted for public review; bound separately)*